



# Crop Weather Report

**Issue: 11-02**  
Issued: Weekly: Apr-Oct  
Monthly: Nov-Mar

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Released: **February 28, 2011**  
For the Month Ending:  
February 28, 2011

## Weather Summary

Average temperatures in Montana during the month of February were well below normal for most of the State. Several reporting stations experienced temperatures that were over 10 degrees below normal. The high for the month of February was 65 degrees in Lewistown. The low temperature was minus 44 in Harlem. The Northeast district had an average temperature of 10 degrees, the coldest average in the State, while the Northwest district was the warmest at 23 degrees. West Yellowstone received the most precipitation at 2.86 inches during the month of February.

The weather outlook for March 7<sup>th</sup> through March 13<sup>th</sup> is above normal precipitation across the State, with temperatures below normal on both sides of the Divide. Normal temperatures for this period in Montana are highs in the mid 30s to the mid 40s, and lows 10 degrees to the mid 20s.

Topsoil moisture rated adequate and surplus is 92 percent, compared to 80 percent from last year. Subsoil moisture rated adequate and surplus is 86 percent, compared to 63 percent last year.

According to the NRCS report on February 4, 2011, mountain snowpack as of February 1<sup>st</sup> was above average and well above last year. January mountain precipitation west of the Divide was 131 percent of average and east of the Divide was 110 percent of average. West of the Divide snowpack was 113 percent of average and 157 percent of last year and east of the Divide snowpack was 111 percent of average and 149 percent of last year.

## Livestock Report

Birthing of calves and lambs continued in February, with 15 percent of calving and 9 percent of lambing complete, both on pace with last year. Birthing conditions have been difficult with sub-zero temperatures and high winds. Snow and ice coverage has continued to challenge livestock grazing as 29 percent was difficult and 67 percent closed. Livestock receiving supplemental feed was slightly higher than last month at 99 percent for both cattle and sheep.

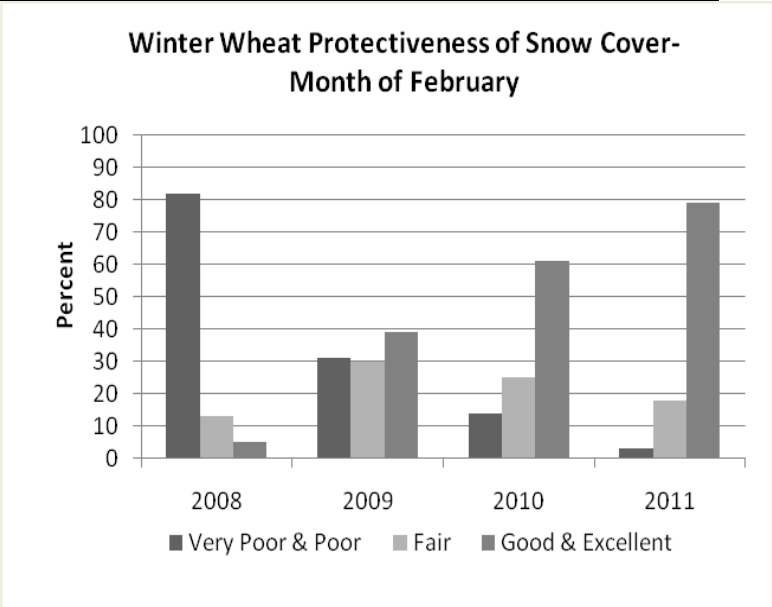
Range & Livestock Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Livestock Birthing</b>			
Calving Complete	15	3	15
Lambing Complete	9	1	9
<b>Livestock Grazing</b>			
Open	4	11	11
Difficult	29	35	31
Closed	67	54	58
<b>Livestock Receiving Supplemental Feed</b>			
Cattle and Calves	99	96	94
Sheep and Lambs	99	96	97

Soil Moisture Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	1	1	4
Short	7	8	16
Adequate	73	74	77
Surplus	19	17	3
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	4	4	9
Short	10	14	28
Adequate	82	77	62
Surplus	4	5	1

## Field Crops Report

Winter wheat condition is 71 percent good to excellent compared to 42 percent last year. Producers faced low wind, freeze, or drought damage in February, though slightly more than in January. Protectiveness of snow cover was 79 percent good to excellent, compared to 67 percent good to excellent in January and 61 percent good to excellent in February of last year.

Crop Condition Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Winter Wheat</b>			
Very Poor	0	0	2
Poor	4	2	8
Fair	25	25	48
Good	56	59	37
Excellent	15	14	5
<b>Winter Wheat- Wind Damage</b>			
None	72	85	82
Light	24	14	13
Moderate	3	1	4
Heavy	1	0	1
<b>Winter Wheat- Freeze and Drought Damage</b>			
None	77	87	77
Light	19	11	19
Moderate	4	2	3
Heavy	0	0	1
<b>Winter Wheat- Protectiveness of Snow Cover</b>			
Very Poor	0	1	6
Poor	3	6	8
Fair	18	26	25
Good	65	59	46
Excellent	14	8	15



THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/>

Completed and Summarized by:  
USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office

In conjunction with: MSU Extension Agents  
USDA County Service Centers

### **Weather Information for the month ending 02/27/2011**

Station	Temperature				Precipitation February			Precipitation October 1 to date		
	Hi	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	% Nrm	Total	DFN	% Nrm
NORTHWEST										
Alberton	55	-5	24	-5	1.83	1.09	247	9.04	4.30	191
Anaconda	56	-19	21	-8	1.49	1.05	339	6.49	3.16	195
Clinton	53	-9	23	-1	1.44	0.38	136	7.28	0.61	109
Corvallis	60	-8	26	-6	1.02	0.50	196	4.66	1.11	131
Creston	50	-16	22	-6	1.52	0.37	132	8.77	1.92	128
Deer Lodge	56	-20	19	-10	0.33	0.06	122	2.02	0.07	104
Drummond	54	-15	23	-4	0.90	0.32	155	5.05	1.32	135
Hamilton	61	-9	26	-5	1.32	0.52	165	7.58	2.67	154
Kalispell	49	-10	22	-6	1.10	-0.05	96	8.64	1.96	129
Missoula	55	-4	24	-6	1.77	1.00	230	7.37	2.60	155
Olney	49	-25	17	-7	1.30	-0.71	65	11.08	0.62	106
Polson	52	-10	23	-9	1.24	0.39	146	8.88	3.52	166
St Ignatius	57	-15	24	-8	1.72	0.98	232	9.06	4.05	181
Seeley Lake	54	-28	20	-6	2.36	0.76	148	16.38	6.20	161
Sula	54	-26	21	-7	0.59	-0.18	77	4.78	-0.27	95
Superior	58	-7	28	-5	1.97	0.87	179	8.60	1.59	123
Swan Lake	53	-19	20	-7	0.49	-1.82	21	9.44	-5.07	65
Thompson Falls	57	-3	29	-5	1.76	-0.21	89	11.6	-0.03	100
West Glacier	51	-17	21	-7	2.10	-0.02	99	18.43	4.76	135
NORTH CENTRAL										
Chester	50	-36	13	-10	0.96	0.71	384	4.48	2.62	241
Chinook	57	-43	11	-10	0.13	-0.19	41	3.31	0.81	132
Choteau	58	-32	18	-10	0.99	0.81	550	2.45	1.03	173
Cut Bank	54	-34	15	-9	1.18	0.90	421	1.78	-0.11	94
Ft Assinniboine	49	-37	12	-10	0.12	-0.19	39	3.50	0.95	137
Fort Benton	62	-28	17	-12	0.76	0.37	195	4.50	1.70	161
Goldbutte	53	-35	16	-9	0.39	0.08	126	3.03	0.63	126
Harlem	56	-44	9	-13	0.51	0.19	159	4.94	2.86	237
Havre	46	-39	14	-9	0.32	-0.04	89	4.02	1.61	167
Malta	49	-38	12	-7	0.47	0.20	174	4.86	2.52	208
Rudyard	46	-36	12	-12	0.90	0.72	500	4.10	2.69	291
Shelby	55	-32	14	-11	0.80	0.47	242	2.82	0.55	124
Turner	43	-36	11	-8	0.17	0	100	4.19	2.34	226
Valier	55	-29	17	-10	0.61	0.38	265	2.09	0.29	116
NORTHEAST										
Bredette	42	-25	9	-11	0.17	-0.04	81	2.96	1.05	155
Culbertson	47	-35	11	-9	0.40	0.18	182	4.52	2.34	207
Glasgow	44	-35	9	-11	0.56	0.30	215	4.58	2.05	220
Glendive	51	-35	13	-10	0.61	0.30	197	3.96	1.35	152
Jordan	47	-38	13	-9	0.45	0.09	125	3.91	1.21	145
Nashua	47	-41	9	-14	0.46	0.28	256	3.87	2.00	207
Opheim	43	-43	8	-9	0.35	0.13	159	1.54	-0.20	89
Plentywood	42	-34	9	-10	0.68	0.39	234	8.01	5.88	376
St Marie	45	-32	8	-11	0.16	-0.09	64	1.77	-0.30	86
Scobey	42	-41	9	-9	0.26	0.13	200	1.86	0.15	109
Sidney	47	-31	13	-9	0.59	0.25	174	5.20	2.31	180
Wolf Point	52	-40	9	-12	0.07	-0.18	28	1.83	-0.31	86
CENTRAL										
Cascade	52	-25	18	-11	1.27	0.92	363	4.18	1.42	151
Grass Range	60	-24	20	-9	0.44	0.15	152	4.33	1.08	133
Great Falls	57	-23	19	-9	1.76	1.25	345	5.97	2.59	177
Harlowton	57	-28	14	-14	0.85	0.48	230	5.20	2.60	200
Helena	59	-19	22	-5	0.92	0.54	242	3.69	1.19	148
Lewistown	65	-23	18	-8	0.40	-0.17	70	4.40	0.31	108
Martinsdale	55	-29	18	-10	0.87	0.57	290	4.50	1.92	174
Neihart	53	-12	22	-6	2.22	1.59	352	8.14	3.16	163
Rogers Pass	57	-30	17	-11	0.95	0.32	151	4.73	0.68	117
Roundup	62	-28	22	-9	0.96	0.62	282	3.90	1.30	150
Ryegate	56	-25	16	-10	0.64	0.35	221	4.32	1.77	169
Stanford	59	-25	19	-10	0.99	0.53	215	4.30	0.86	125
Townsend	60	-24	20	-9	0.33	0.11	150	1.98	0.06	103
Valentine	56	-31	13	-10	0.36	0.04	113	3.07	0.38	114
Wht Sulphur Spr	48	-26	16	-10	0.64	0.28	178	3.48	0.75	127
SOUTHWEST										
Boulder	54	-22	20	-7	0.36	0.08	129	2.21	-0.07	97
Bozeman	53	-16	21	-7	0.46	-0.06	88	4.16	0.30	108
Butte	51	-24	19	-5	0.39	-0.08	83	2.49	-0.43	85
Dillon	51	-14	22	-7	0.02	-0.18	10	1.90	0.21	112
Ennis	53	-17	22	-7	0.19	-0.26	42	3.58	0.57	119
Lakeview	43	-30	14	-3	0.82	-0.09	90	8.62	3.09	156
W Yellowstone	45	-38	9	-9	2.86	1.09	162	14.83	5.61	161
Wisdom	49	-37	16	-3	0.57	0.08	116	5.59	2.23	166
SOUTH CENTRAL										
Billings	62	-15	21	-10	0.71	0.13	122	4.50	0.43	111
Cooke City	42	-36	13	-5	1.39	-0.33	81	10.70	0.81	108
Gardiner	51	-15	21	-8	1.25	0.94	403	6.77	4.25	269
Hardin	62	-25	21	-8	0.45	0.12	136	2.52	-0.78	76
Huntley	62	-22	18	-9	0.71	0.23	148	3.39	-0.07	98
Hysham	63	-29	19	-9	0.84	0.52	263	4.35	1.28	142
Joliet	61	-21	18	-11	0.46	-0.17	73	4.56	0.30	107
Livingston	58	-20	24	-7	0.68	0.20	142	3.47	-0.15	96
Nye	58	-22	22	-10	0.63	0.08	115	4.28	0.17	104
Rapelje	61	-28	21	-9	0.51	-0.01	98	2.61	-1.03	72
SOUTHEAST										
Albion	53	-20	16	-6	0.72	0.42	240	3.90	1.39	155
Baker	46	-29	14	-10	0.22	-0.22	50	1.86	-1.39	57
Broadus	61	-21	21	-7	1.15	0.76	295	2.80	-0.41	87
Ekalaka	52	-30	15	-10	1.77	1.27	354	5.10	1.06	126
Miles City	53	-31	15	-11	0.15	-0.19	44	1.68	-1.26	57
Plevna	49	-34	13	-11	0.84	0.42	200	3.99	0.76	124
Compiled by AWIS, Inc. based on NWS data. DFN - Departure from normal 1971-2000.										